

CHAMBERS -- 10/762,504
Client/Matter: 016955-0307490

REMARKS

Claims 3-5 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are cancelled and claims 3-5 are newly added. Reconsideration in view of the above-outlined amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges the return of the initialed PTO-1449 for the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 23, 2004. Applicant, however, notes that the two PCT references (Muir and Chambers) identified on the PTO-1449 were not initialed by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner initial these two references acknowledging that the references were considered and return another copy to Applicant.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over US Patent No. 6,394,421 to Henly ("Henly '421"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, the grounds for the rejection are now moot.

Henly '421 discloses a windlass winch 100 having a casing 101 that encloses a gypsy 103 and other working parts and covers a base 102 for mounting on a deck. The gypsy 103 is positioned on a rotatable drive shaft 104. The gypsy 103 has two jaws provided by separate gypsy halves 105 and 106. The jaws 105 and 106 form a radially inwardly tapering groove which is for receiving and gripping the rope and/or chain. As shown in the figures, the jaws 105 and 106 have raised portions.

By contrast, newly added claim 3 is directed to a chain wheel part. The chain wheel part includes a disk having a central portion, a perimeter and a substantially planar peripheral portion surrounding the central portion between the central portion and the perimeter of the disk. The planar peripheral portion lies in a plane and the central portion is displaced from the plane. A plurality of teeth are adapted to drive a rope and extend from the central portion. Each of the plurality of teeth does not extend to the perimeter of the disk. A plurality of spines are adapted to drive a chain. The spines are positioned on at least some of the teeth at an outer most extremity of the teeth. The spines extend down from the central portion across at least a portion of the planar peripheral portion.

Henly '421 does not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of newly added claim 3. While Henly '421 does disclose raised portions on the jaws 105 and 106, Henly '421 does not disclose the claimed teeth and spines. Henly '421 does not disclose a plurality

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teeth, which extend from the central portion. Furthermore, Henly '421 does not disclose a plurality of spines which extend from at least some of the teeth at an outer most extremity across a portion of the planar peripheral portion. The combination of teeth and spines are absent in Henly '421. Accordingly, claim 3 is patentable over Henly '421.

Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 3 and are allowable over Henly '421 for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, Henly '421 fails to disclose a spine that extends across a planar peripheral portion to or adjacent a perimeter of the disk.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over US Patent No. 6,098,962 to Henly ("Henly '962"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Henly '962 discloses a gypsy-type winch. The flexible pulling element here includes a rope 3 which passes from a tension run 4 to a free run 5. A sheave includes a lower jaw 6 and a top jaw 28. The jaws 6 and 28 form a gripping and driving groove 29 for receiving a flexible pulling element. The jaws 6 and 28 include chain link engaging sprocket teeth 9 for engaging chains. Like Henly '421, Henly '962 does not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of newly added claim 3. While Henly '962 does disclose teeth 9 on the jaws 6 and 28, Henly '962 does not disclose the claimed teeth and spines. Henly '962 does not disclose a plurality of spines which extend from at least some of the teeth at an outer most extremity across a portion of the planar peripheral portion. The combination of teeth and spines are absent in Henly '962. Accordingly, claim 3 is patentable over Henly '962.

Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 3 and are allowable over Henly '962 for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, Henly '962 fails to disclose a spine that extends across a planar peripheral portion to or adjacent a perimeter of the disk.

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Applicant respectfully submits that the claim defines subject matter, which is patentable over the prior art of record. Should any issues require further resolution, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney to discuss and resolve the issues. Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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